

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants are filing a Request for Continued Examination to (1) update the disclosure of art; (2) correct certain errors in the numbering in the drawings; (3) conform the specification to the corrected numbering; and (4) submit comments on the reasoning for allowance mailed on November 30, 2009.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicant wishes to comment on the Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowance mailed on November 30, 2009.

Regarding the second and third paragraphs of the Statement, Applicant respectfully submits that language used those paragraphs is not recited in the claims. Applicant submits that there are four independent claims with different limitations and the statement does not take into account the specific recitations of the respective independent claims. For example, claims 42, 46, and 48 do not recite passing a balloon catheter "to a treatment site."

Applicant also would like to comment on paragraph four of the Statement. That paragraph reads as follows:

The Examiner notes that the claims do not specifically state that the steps are performed in a specific order, however, the limitation "serves as a guidewire for the balloon catheter" clearly demonstrates that the stent carrying member has to be in place before the balloon catheter can be passed over it.

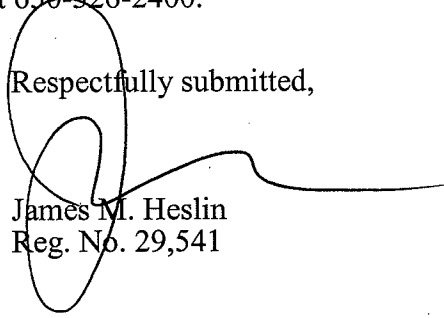
In response to this paragraph, Applicant submits that there are four independent claims with different limitations and the statement does not take into account the specific recitations of the respective independent claims as noted above. The claims do not necessarily require that the stent carrying member be "in place" before the balloon catheter is passed over it. They also do not necessarily require a specific order. The claims are allowable for reasons previously stated by Applicant.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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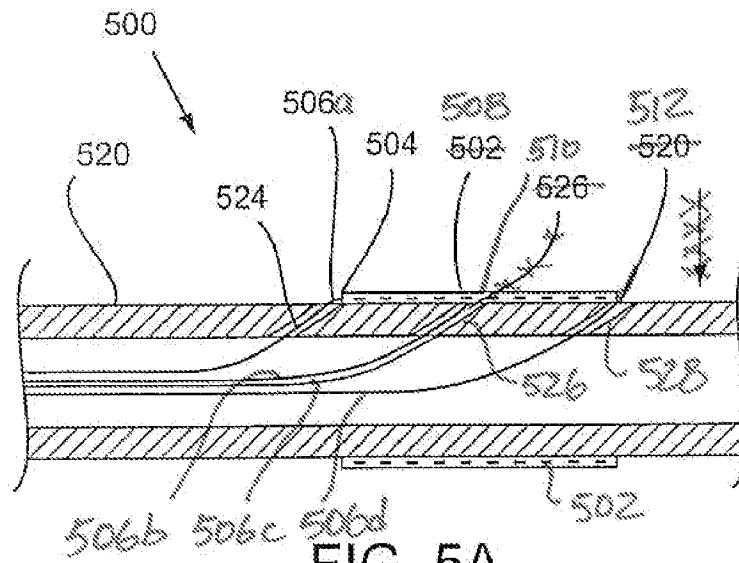


FIG. 5A

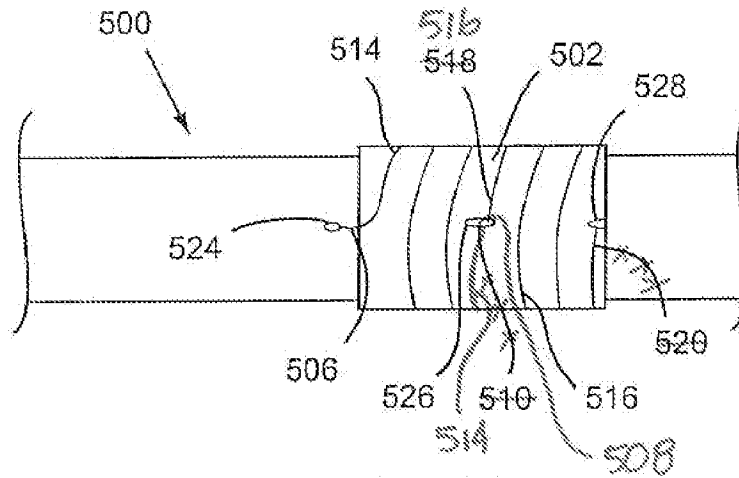


FIG. 5B

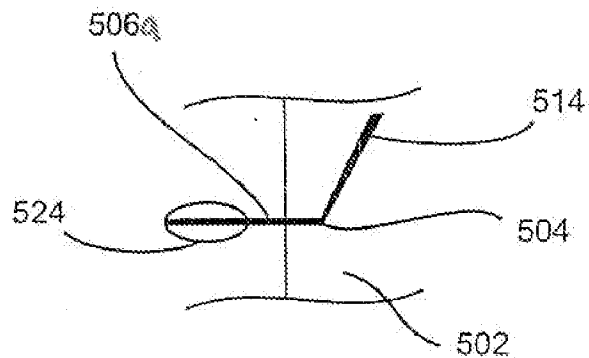


FIG. 5C

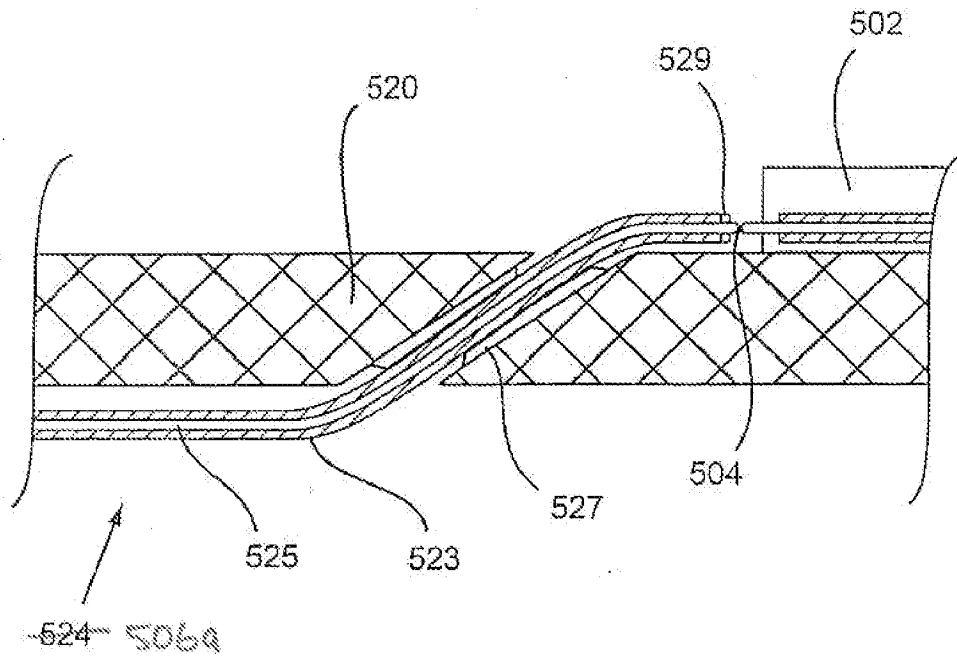


FIG. 5D

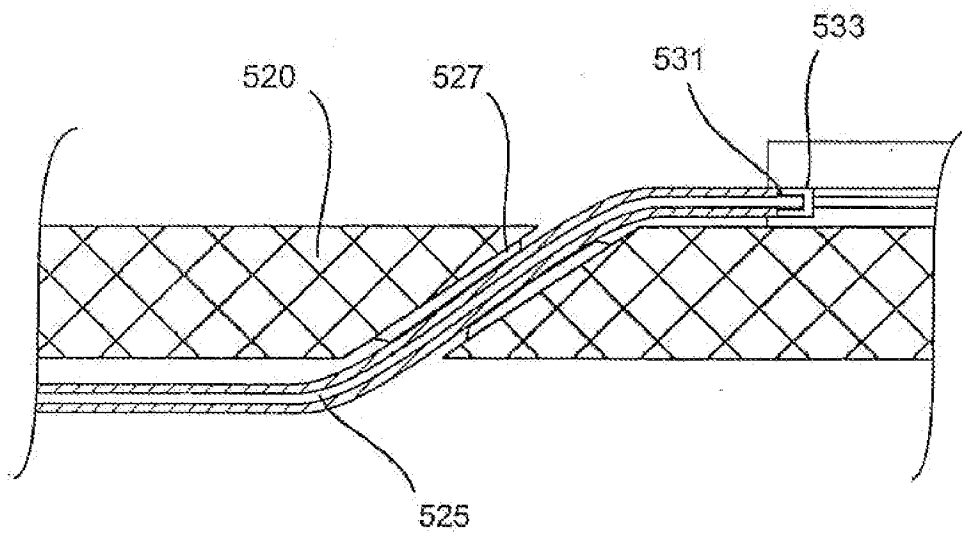


FIG. 5E